

LOCAL AGENCY TRANSITIONS GENERAL INFORMATION

Background

- Child support reform legislation mandated the transfer of responsibility for program administration for each county from the County District Attorney Office to a new local child support agency (Family Code sections 17304 and 17305).
- The transfer of all county child support offices was to be completed by December 2002, with 50 percent or more of the statewide caseload required to be transferred by December 31, 2001.
- The transition of all 58 counties to a new local child support agency was separated into three phases.
- Each transition to a new local child support agency occurred seamlessly without disruption to program services.

Phase 1

- In an effort to ensure timely and efficient transition of local child support programs, DCSS implemented the legislative option to transition some counties early.
- Eleven “pioneer” counties were selected to be transitioned by December 2000, including: Alpine; Colusa; Contra Costa; Nevada; Placer; Riverside; San Francisco; Santa Barbara; Santa Cruz; Sierra; Nevada; and Yuba.
- In conjunction with the transition process, Nevada and Sierra counties chose to consolidate their child support services program.

Phase 2

- Phase 2 transition efforts began in December 2000 and were completed in December 2001.
- Sixteen Phase 2 counties transitioned including: Butte; El Dorado; Inyo; Kern; Los Angeles; Mariposa; Mendocino; Mono; Monterey; Plumas; San Benito; San Bernardino; San Diego; Trinity; Tulare; and Tuolumne.
- At the completion of Phase 2, those counties that had transitioned are responsible for 64.2 percent of the statewide caseload, exceeding the 50 percent statutory requirement.

Phase 3

- Phase 3 county transition efforts began with a kickoff meeting in August 2001 with local IV-D Directors, County Administrative Officers, and other county representatives.
- As a risk mitigation measure to ensure that the December 31, 2002 legislative mandate is met, DCSS required all 31 Phase 3 counties to transition no later than July 1, 2002 to ensure an efficient transition.

- Experience during Phases 1 & 2 has shown there is a potential for issues to arise along with unexpected delays which effect a county's ability to meet its planned transition date.
- July 1 is the beginning of the fiscal year and budget cycle for both the State and county offices, making a fiscal transition on July 1 more efficient.
- Thirty-one Phase 3 counties transitioned, including: Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Del Norte, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Merced, Modoc, Napa, Orange, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Ventura and Yolo.
- Phase 3 transition efforts were also coordinated with local child support agency consolidations.